

Marked Up Amendments to the Claims

1. (Amended) A method for determining order and/or lot sizes that are consistent with an entity's primary strategic objective, comprising the steps of:
 - a. selecting a primary strategic objective;
 - b. listing the possible strategic objective measures;
 - c. selecting the primary strategic objective measure from said list of possible strategic objective measures and calculation;
 - d. running the material requirements planning (MRP), manufacturing resource planning (MRP II) and any other management information system (MIS) for a planning period as if the currently required activities and/or work were in fact already ordered and/or run per the existing activity schedule and ordering rules to determine a first expected output;
 - e. determining the first expected results ~~ran in step d~~ from said first expected output as measured in terms of ~~the said primary strategic objective measure calculation~~;
 - f. ~~temporarily~~ modifying ~~the said~~ existing activity schedule by removing one of ~~the said~~ currently required activities or work in ~~the said~~ existing activity schedule and re-running ~~the said~~ MRP, MRP II and any other MIS for ~~the said~~ planning period as if the remaining activities and/or work were in fact already run per ~~the said~~ existing activity schedule and ~~the said~~ existing ordering rules to determine a second expected output;
 - g. determining the second expected results of ~~the said~~ modified activity schedule created in step f as measured in terms of ~~the said primary strategic objective measure calculation~~;
 - h. taking ~~the said~~ first expected results ~~found in step e~~ and subtracting ~~the said~~ second expected results ~~found in step g~~ to determine the impact of ~~the said~~ activity and/or work that was removed in step f on ~~the said~~ strategic objective measure;
 - i. determining the ~~appropriate~~ new order and/or lot size that is consistent with ~~the said~~ primary strategic objective by taking ~~the said~~ impact found in step h and subtracting any fixed amount associated with ~~the said~~ activity or work that was removed in step f in the same units of measure as ~~the said~~ primary strategic objective measure and then dividing the result by the amount per unit or piece of ~~the said~~ removed job, ~~the said~~ amount is being measured in the same unit of measure as ~~the said~~ primary strategic objective measure; and

j. re-running steps d through i above for each different job and/or order ~~existing~~.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size includes adding an additional quantity to ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size includes an upper limiting value that is not to be exceeded.

4. Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size is overridden and a substitute value put in for ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size includes adding an additional quantity to the said new order and/or lot size and includes an upper limiting value that is not to be exceeded.

6. (Amended) The method as in any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective is any strategic objective.

7. (Amended) An apparatus for determining an entity's order and/or lot sizes that the entity purchases and/or produces consistent with and supportive of the entity's primary strategic objective ~~such that the operational side of the entity is supporting and consistent with the said strategic direction of the entity~~, wherein said apparatus includes:

- a. user interface devices and modules operatively coupled to said apparatus;
- b. a memory that stores databases and computer readable code;
- c. said databases including original databases and modified original databases;
- d. a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer readable code, said code configured to:

- i. receive, load and store the ~~calculations for the~~ primary strategic objective measure in ~~the~~ said memory or storage medium of ~~the~~ said apparatus;

- ii. modify the existing planned activities or work not yet completed to be temporarily assumed to be completed over a planning period and temporarily store ~~the~~

said activities that ~~is~~are assumed completed in ~~the~~ said modified original databases in ~~the~~ said memory or storage medium of ~~the~~ said apparatus;

iii. ~~executing~~ the materials requirements planning (MRP), manufacturing resource planning (MRP II) and any other management information system (MIS) program(s) for ~~the~~ said planning period using ~~the~~ said modified original databases per the existing schedule and ordering rules to determine the first expected output of said MRP, MRP II and MIS;

iv. determining the first expected results of said MRP, MRP II and MIS ~~the programs ran in step iii to~~ as measured by ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective measure ~~calculation~~ and store ~~the~~ said first expected results in ~~the~~ said memory or storage medium of ~~the~~ said apparatus;

v. ~~temporarily removing~~ one of ~~the~~ said activities or work in ~~the~~ said modified original databases in ~~the~~ said memory or storage medium of ~~the~~ said apparatus and re-running ~~the~~ said MRP, MRP II and any other MIS program(s) for ~~the~~ said planning period as if the remaining said activities and/or work were in fact already run per the modified original databases list and ~~the~~ said existing ordering rules to determine the second expected output of said MRP, MRP II and MIS;

vi. determining the second expected results of ~~the~~ said MRP, MRP II and MIS ~~programs ran in step v~~ as measured in terms of ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective measure ~~calculation~~ and store ~~the~~ said ~~first~~ second expected results in ~~the~~ said memory or storage medium of ~~the~~ said apparatus;

vii. taking ~~the~~ said first expected results ~~found in step iv~~ and subtracting ~~the~~ said second expected results ~~found in step vi~~ to determine the impact of ~~the~~ said activity and/or work that was removed in step v on ~~the~~ said strategic objective measure;

viii. determining the ~~appropriate~~ new order and/or lot size that is consistent with ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective by taking ~~the~~ said impact ~~found in step vii~~ and subtracting any fixed amount associated with ~~the~~ said job that was removed in step v in the same units of measure as ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective measure and then dividing the result by the amount per unit or piece, in the same units of measure as ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective measure, of ~~the~~ said job that was removed ~~wherein the~~

~~said amount is measured in the same unit of measure as the said primary strategic objective measure;~~

ix. re-storing ~~the~~ said removed activity or work into ~~the~~ said modified database with the new said order and/or lot size and storing the new order and/or lot size into ~~the~~ said original database in ~~the~~ said memory or storage medium of ~~the~~ said apparatus; and

x. re-running steps v through ix above for each different activity and/or work currently planned in the planning period.

8. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ said code is configured to add and additional quantity to ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size.

9. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ said code is configured so that ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size has an upper limiting value that is not to be exceeded.

10. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ said code is configured to over-ride ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size with a substitute value.

11. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim ~~8~~7, wherein the said code is configured to add and additional quantity to said new order and/or lot size and so that ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size has an upper limiting value that is not to be exceeded.

12. (Amended) An apparatus as in any one of claims recited in claim 7 through 11, wherein ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective is any strategic objective.

13. (Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for determining an order and/or lot size that the entity purchases and/or produces consistent with and supportive of the entity's primary strategic objective ~~such that the operational side of the entity is supporting and consistent with the said strategic direction of the entity~~, wherein said determination comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having:

- a. the calculations for the primary strategic objective measure;
- b. a first expected results of the existing activities and/or work as measured by ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective measure ~~calculation~~ calculated over a planning period as if ~~the~~ said existing activities and/or work were already completed;
- c. a second expected results of the existing activities and/or work, less one of ~~the~~ said existing activities, as measured by ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective measure ~~calculation~~ calculated over a planning period as if ~~the~~ said existing remaining activities and/or work were already completed;
- d. the difference between ~~the~~ said first expected results and ~~the~~ said second expected results; and
- e. the new order and/or lot size as determined by taking ~~the~~ said difference and subtracting any fixed amount associated with ~~the~~ said removed job and dividing the result by any amount per piece or unit, wherein all said amounts are in the same units of measure as ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective measure.

14. (Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 13, wherein ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having an additional quantity added to ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size.

15. (Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 13, wherein ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having an upper limiting value that ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size is not to exceed.

16. (Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 13, wherein ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory wherein the said new order and/or lot size is over-ridden with a substitute value.

17. (Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 14~~3~~, wherein ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having an additional quantity added to ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size and new order and/or lot size comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having an upper limiting value that ~~the~~ said new order and/or lot size is not to exceed.

18. (Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium as in any one of claims 13 through 17, wherein ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective is any strategic objective.

19. (Amended) A device and system for determining an entity's order and/or lot sizes that the entity purchases and/or produces consistent with and supportive of the entity's strategic objective, said device and system comprising:

- a. a means for receiving, loading and storing the calculations for the primary strategic objective measure in ~~the~~ said memory or storage medium of ~~the~~ said device;
- b. a means for modifying the existing planned activities or work not yet completed to be ~~temporarily~~ assumed to be completed over a planning period and ~~temporarily~~ storing the said activity that is assumed completed in ~~the~~ said modified original databases in ~~the~~ said memory or storage medium of the device;
- c. ~~a~~ means for executing the material requirements planning (MRP), manufacturing resources planning (MRP II) and any other management information system (MIS) program(s) for ~~the~~ said planning period using ~~the~~ said modified original databases per the existing schedule and ordering rules to determine a first expected output;
- d. a means for determining the first expected results of said first expected output ~~the programs ran in step e~~ as measured by ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective measure ~~calculation~~ and storing ~~the~~ said first expected results in ~~the~~ said memory or storage medium of ~~the~~ said device;
- e. a means for ~~temporarily~~ removing one of ~~the~~ said activities or work in ~~the~~ said modified original databases in ~~the~~ said memory or storage medium of ~~the~~ said device and

re-running ~~the~~-said MRP, MRP II and any other MIS program(s) for ~~the~~-said planning period as if the remaining said activities and/or work were in fact already run per the modified original databases list and ~~the~~-said existing ordering rules to determine a second expected output;

f. a means for determining the second expected results of ~~the~~-said second expected output ~~programs ran in step e~~ as measured in terms of ~~the~~-said primary strategic objective measure ~~calculation~~ and storing ~~the~~-said first second expected results in ~~the~~-said memory or storage medium of ~~the~~-said device;

g. a means for taking ~~the~~-said first expected results ~~found in step d~~ and subtracting ~~the~~ said second expected results found ~~in step f~~ to determine the impact of ~~the~~-said activity and/or work that was removed in step e on ~~the~~-said strategic objective measure;

h. a means for determining the appropriate new order and/or lot size that is consistent with ~~the~~-said primary strategic objective by taking ~~the~~-said impact ~~found in step g~~ and subtracting any fixed amount associated with ~~the~~-said job that was removed in step e in the same units of measure as ~~the~~-said primary strategic objective measure and then dividing the result by the amount per unit or piece, in the same units of measure as ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective measure, of ~~the~~-said job that was removed ~~wherein the said amount is measured in the same unit of measure as the said primary strategic objective measure~~;

i. a means for re-storing ~~the~~-said removed activity or work into ~~the~~-said modified database with the new said order and/or lot size and storing the new order and/or lot size into ~~the~~-said original database in ~~the~~-said memory or storage medium of ~~the~~-said device; and

j. a means for re-running steps e through i above for each different activity and/or work currently planned in the planning period.

20. (Amended) The means of claim 19, wherein said means includes additional means for adding an additional quantity to ~~the~~-said determined order and/or lot sizes.

21. (Amended) The means of claim 19, wherein said means includes additional means for establishing an upper limit on ~~the~~ said determined order and/or lot sizes that is not to be exceeded.

22. (Amended) The means of claim 19, wherein said means includes additional means for over-riding ~~the~~ said determined order and/or lot sizes with a substitute value.

23. (Amended) The means of claim ~~20~~ 19 wherein said means includes additional means for adding an additional quantity to said determined order and/or lot sizes and means for establishing an upper limit on ~~the~~ said determined order and/or lot sizes that is not to be exceeded.

24. (Amended) The means as in any one of claims 19 through 23 wherein ~~the~~ said primary strategic objective is any strategic objective.